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THE CHURCH IN RELATION TO THE STATE.

BY

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RECTOR OF BUCKNELL.

Self-reverencing each, and reverencing each,
Distinct in individualities.'

TENNYSON'S *Princess*.

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P R E F A C E.

THIS book is meant to be a summary in a readable form of the chief principles and facts upon which rests the great question of domestic politics at the present day.

The need of a thorough examination all round into the Relations between Church and State, as exhibited in Nature, in Revelation, and in History, has been more and more impressed upon my mind during the accomplishment of this work by the constant experience of the last two years. And perhaps the present time affords a more favourable opportunity than has hitherto occurred for attempting to combine all parties in the Church by suggesting, as founded upon the fruits of past experience, modes of settling disputed points, which appear to be legitimate developments and applications of forces strictly constitutional.

I am not aware that reference has been omitted to any important facts of history or natural or of revealed principles which might have appeared to have an inconvenient tendency. As in a previous study of more than

thirty years, so now, Horace's words may perhaps be reversed in saying,

Non mihi res, sed me rebus subjungere conor.

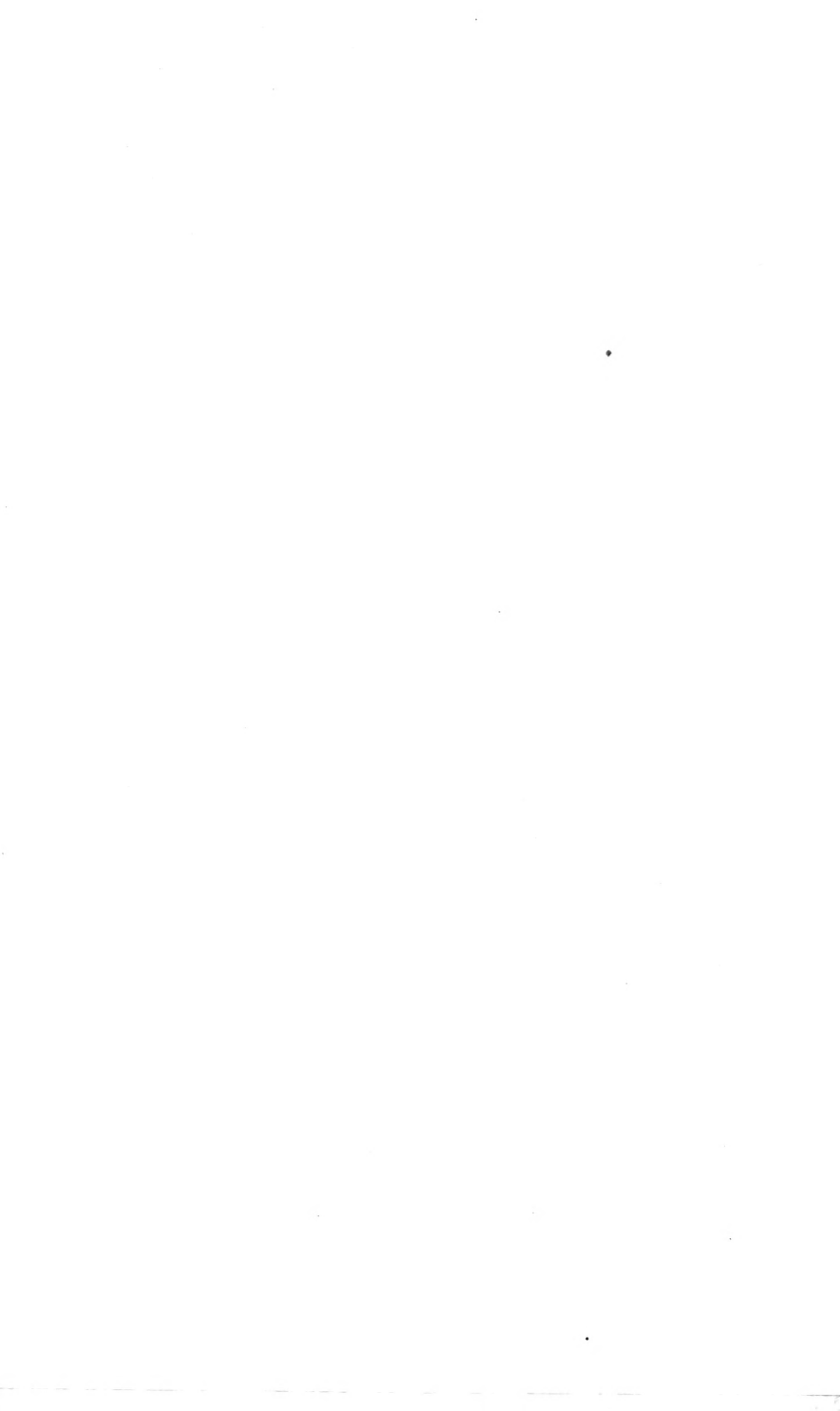
Whatever faults may be apparent in the conception or execution,—in the mode of treatment, or in the endeavour to embrace so large a subject within so small a space, or in points concealed from myself,—yet I venture to claim that this is an honest and zealous attempt, however humble, to grapple with a vast question in a manner which includes some suggestions that have not, so far as I know, been made in our time till now.

But my indebtedness to many Friends is great, both for actual information and for valuable references to various books of authority in their respective spheres. The intelligence amassed by the 'Church Defence Institution,' where 'defence' has led to most useful exploration, has been very advantageous to a search meant to be complete. And I cannot but express my obligations to the school of early English History, which in future years will probably be regarded as the most remarkable feature in the University of Oxford of the present time, and in which occur the names of Haddan, Stubbs, Freeman, Bright, Green, and others.

The severe, and indeed embittered, controversies of the day, will leave a blessing behind, if they teach us to learn more of that merciful Providence in the past, under Which foundations have been deeply laid upon the rock

that we may even now discover, and upon which, if I mistake not, we may reconstruct our building so as in course of time to comprehend again under God our brethren who have left us, and may rear supports that may maintain it through the Divine Grace amidst the manifold shocks of the ages to come.

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